

Academic Mobility, Career Development and International Laboratories

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The paper has three goals: to overview of recent initiatives in science policy regarding career development in academia, to analyze the current challenges and existing trends in global S&T cooperation and to discuss the role played by international scientific mobility in the intellectual biography of scholars and their academic careers. To illustrate these tasks two empirical studies were conducted in Russia. The first one is about academic mobility and career development in Russia. Its results are presented at the book K. Prpić, I. van der Weijden and N. Asheulova (Eds.) (2014). (Re)searching Scientific Careers. St Petersburg: IHST/RAS - Nestor-Historia – SSTNET/ESA (Part II, Chapter 3). The findings of the study highlights that international mobility is of great importance in boosting academic careers and can solve some problems of science organization. Participation in joint projects and international scientific events, the publication of research findings in prestigious journals, internships at famous scientific centres and the receipt of grants from foreign foundations lead to wider experience and higher status for young specialists, opening up new opportunities for them in their own country. International mobility integrated into scientific organization can facilitate the exchange of ideas, the development of networks with other researchers, supplement research careers, improve language competencies and increase scientific outputs.

The second study demonstrates the new types of international laboratories under the guidance of foreign leading scientist that were organized by Russian Government in 2010. This government initiative is based on the mobility program and includes cooperation with scientific diaspora. It is intensified the collaborative intellectual exchanges. More than 160 laboratories engaged in promising research have been established. We conducted a study to investigate the laboratory life in such organizations. Our analysis is focused on weakly structured in-depth interviews with experts, foreign leading scientists and heads of laboratories, as well as with young researchers from international laboratories in several Research and Education Centers of St Petersburg, Moscow, Rostov-na-Donu, Ufa. The results of the study are described at the book: Ащеулова Н. А., Душина С. А. Мобильная наука в глобальном мире / ред. В. М. Ломовицкая. (Mobile Science in Global World)—СПб.: Нестор-История, 2014. — 224 с. The data, that we have obtained, demonstrate, that the idea to invite leading scientists to the Russian laboratories is efficient. Laboratories under the guidance of leading scientists are effective especially for reproducing the scientific elite.